providing support price to oil palm farmers through implementation of Market Intervention Scheme on 50:50 basis between Centre and State. The proposal is being examined.

Subsidy on DRIP Irrigation

761. SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government consider extending the subsidy given to the farmers for drip irrigation to the farmers who are using the sprinkler system for irrigation which is justifiable as far as the farmers are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): Subsidy assistance is being provided to the farmers for drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation system depending upon the type of crop being grown by the farmer. For horticultural crops assistance is being provided for drip irrigation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Use of Plastics in Agriculture. Similarly, under the Oil Palm Development Project and under the Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System, assistance is being provided for drip irrigation of oil palm and sugarcane crops respectively. During 1999-2000 drip irrigation has been extended to cotton crop also under the Integrated Cotton Development Project of Technology Mission on Cotton.

Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme

762. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) since when crop insurance scheme is implemented by Government;

(b) the details of coverage of crops, regions, premium etc.; and

(c) whether Government will introduce a comprehensive crop insurance scheme covering all the crops throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) and (b) First systematic attempt to introduce a crop insurance scheme was made in 1985 by introducing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) which remained in operation till Kharif 1999 season. The scheme was voluntary in nature and was available to all the farmers availing crop loans from rural financial institutions for growing wheat, paddy, millets, oilseeds and pulses. Under the scheme, sum insured was equal to the crop loan disbursed subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per farmer. The premium payable was 2% (wheat, paddy & millets) and 1% (oilseeds and pulses) of the sum insured. 50% of the premium payable by small and marginal farmers was subsidised equally by the Central and State Governments. The scheme was implemented by 19 States and 4 UTs in one or more seasons since its inception.

(c) Recently, from Rabi 1999-2000 season Government has introduced a new scheme, namely, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) covering all the farmers (both loanee and non-loanee), all the crops subject to availability of past yield data and higher level of risk. Scheme is available for all the States/UTs on voluntary basis.

Reconstruction of Houses Destroyed in Cyclone

763. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses estimated as damaged due to cyclone in Orissa in October last;

(b) whether Government are taking steps to reconstruct houses in the cyclone affected areas in that state; and

(c) if so, the progress as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) 18.97 lakhs as intimated by the Government of Orissa.

(b) As per available information, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCC) has sanctioned a pakage of Rs. .1116.40 crore for rehabilitation programme for reconstruction of houses under loan scheme. HUDCO is also establishing several